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## BOOK NOTICES.

*Kleinasiens Naturschätze von Karl Kannenberg. Verlag von Gebrüder Borntraeger. Berlin, 1897. Pp. 278, with 31 Illustrations and 2 Plans.*

This book is significant of the growing interest shown by the Germans in Turkey and everything Turkish. Now that they have reorganized the Sultan's army, introduced into it compulsory military service, Krupp cannon and Mauser rifles, they look upon the late Turkish victory over Greece as in many respects a German victory. It is time for them, they believe, to make hay while the sun shines, by investing capital in the land which owes them so much, and which, they do not hesitate to say, has been saved from absorption by Russia through their timely intervention.

As the victory over the Greeks was won principally by the peasants and shepherds of Asia Minor in the Turkish army, it is towards that country that the Germans are strongly drawn.

Asia Minor has repeatedly been described as a field for archaeological research, but the author of the book before us has a purely utilitarian object in view. He proposes to turn the enormous expansion of German commerce, the increasing travelling fever of his native country, and its attempts at colonization into a fertile field, where capital is much needed. And in this he follows in the footsteps of no less a personage than Moltke himself, who long ago made suggestions towards the same end.

In fact, everything about the preparation of "Kleinasiens Naturschatze" bears a military stamp.

It is written by an artillery officer, and supplemented with notes by a lieutenant serving on the general staff. The very photographs, that serve as illustrations, were taken by captains of artillery and infantry, though, to be perfectly fair, several university professors were called in to pass upon various parts of the work.

The animus of the book may be best shown by quoting the opening sentences of the short Preface :

"The Turks are the Germans of the East as the Greeks are the French," says the author.

The reasons for this opinion are contained in a sentence, thirteen lines long, characteristically German, which would delight the soul of Mark Twain :

"This shows itself not only through the fact that the Germans,

in spite of the difference in religion, feel themselves drawn much more to the Turks than to the Greeks, while the French sympathize more with the latter, but this has shown itself especially during the late Greek and Turkish war, which reveals so many points of resemblance with the German and French war ; on the one side the theatrical fighter's pose, the many bombastic words before the beginning, and during the fight at the start a bold *élan*, which, however, was soon broken by the first resistance—on the other side over against the attacks of the mobile and excited enemy, at the start utter calm and quiet, then—the awakening of the lion—a stroke like that of the German *Michel*, when he becomes angry."

Having delivered himself of this personal view on the Greek and Turkish nationalities, the author proceeds to write an admirable, painstaking and scientific treatise on the great natural wealth of Asia Minor. Every bit of information is so well-placed and tabulated that it may be found at once. The main purpose of the book is never forgotten, and yet much material of a special kind is vouchsafed under appropriate headings. The careful plan of the book makes room for etymological derivations when these bear upon names of places, for scraps of folk songs, popular sayings, and even for certain commands of the Koran, relating to the subjects treated. The pronunciation of Turkish and Greek words is made easy for Germans by special accents.

Lieutenant Kannenberg passes in review the animals, plants and minerals of Asia Minor, special stress being laid on those which possess a commercial value. We are told that the horse, once used by all Turks for meat and milk, can now be afforded only by the well-to-do; that the principal beasts of burden are donkeys, mules and camels; that the common draught animals are oxen and Asiatic buffaloes; and that sheep and goats form at once the greatest source of wealth in the country, and the entire meat supply. Pigs are not domesticated, but occur in a wild state in the forests.

The general reader is referred especially to the animals and plants characteristic of Asia Minor, such as the Angora goat, the buffalo, the jackal, the storks, which are such an amusing feature of the peninsula in winter, the many song-birds of passage, the trout in the mountain streams, the figs of the Maeander valley.

One regrets that the author has so little to say concerning the licorice root, which is an important staple of export. The superb anemones of many colors, which cover the hill-sides as with a Smyrna rug, also deserve more than mere mention.

Asia Minor, under proper conditions, could become the same superb granary which it once formed under the Roman Empire. It is capable of supplying half the world with tobacco. Cotton, now cultivated only on a small scale, might expand into a great crop. The mineral resources of the country have barely been touched.

It is confidently hoped that the railroads which are pushing into the interior, under the stimulus of English and German capital, will eventually reach the valley of the Euphrates, and connect Europe with India and southern Asia in general.

A full list of reference literature adds to the value of "*Kleinasien Naturschätze*." The illustrations are refreshingly new and to the point, giving, what is so rare in works of this kind, the life of the people as they are in action at work and play.

Lieutenant Kannenberg, after writing so fully and enthusiastically upon the great natural resources of Asia Minor in this volume, might in the future give us a second, in which the reason for the glaring poverty of its inhabitants is explained.

But such a further investigation would infallibly lead him to the subject of taxation. The tax-gatherer is the destroyer of Asia Minor. Not the earthquakes nor the floods, nor the droughts, nor the frosts play such havoc with the productive power of the country as he. The inhabitants are robbed of everything over and above what is required for bare subsistence, hence they produce no more than is absolutely necessary for life.

If German colonists intend to profit by the information contained in "*Kleinasien Naturschätze*," it will be the part of wisdom to get special rates in taxation from the Sultan before they invest their savings in the soil of Asia Minor.

W. D. McC.

*Impressions of South Africa.* By James Bryce, Author of "*The American Commonwealth*," "*Transcaucasia and Ararat*," "*The Holy Roman Empire*." 8vo. New York, The Century Co. 1897.

One may well ask, after reading this book: "If these are impressions, what are studies?" Mr. Bryce has told the whole story of South Africa, its past and its present, and has stated the problems of its future, with a lucidity, an impartiality and a soundness of judgment not to be called in question.

South Africa is the region south of the Zambezi River. It has three divisions: the low strip of coast varying in width from fifteen miles to eighty; the hills behind the coast, rising gradually into mountains from 3,000 to 7,000 feet in height, and in Basutoland,